September, 1993 by the General Manager, Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited, South area-I; and

(f) the details thereof and the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) No, Sir. The CMD MTNL is responding to letters written by the Members of Parliament.

(b) Not applicable in view of (a) above.

(c) No. of letters received from MPs during last three years are as under:

1992	1993	1993-94 (upto 30-11-94)
402	198	122

All the letters have been duly acknowledged. The Hon'ble MPs have also been informed of the position and measures taken on their requests/suggestions/complaints etc. except in 3 cases which are pending finalisation.

(d) Pending 3. Replies being finalised.

(e) Number of letters received by GM (South) from the subscribers during September, 1993 in MTNL Delhi and Mumbai are as under:

Delhi — 8632

Mumbai — 364

South-I area in Delhi was not existing in September, 1993. Hence above figures have been given for combined South area of Delhi. In Bombay South-I area has not been formed and there is only South area.

(f) These letters mainly relate to complaints of faulty telephones, provisioning and billing matters. All the above letter* have been attended to and necessary action has been taken.

Tender for new Telephone Lines

1919. SHRI M. A. BABY:
SHRI NILOTPAL BASU :

Will he Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that multinational corporations with strong support from their domestic banks agreed to fulfil the requirements of the new lines tender of leasing/ deferred payments; and

(b) whether it is also a fact that the C-DOT which also entered the race were denied by the Indian Financial Institutions to provide similar backup support of fulfilling such conditions of the tender ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) In the tender for financing of telecom projects opened on 15-6-1994 only registered Indian Companies were eligible to bid. Only two large digital switch suppliers have quoted in this finacing tender, one of them being M/s. Indian Telephone Industries Ltd.

(b) Many C-DOT technology based equipment manufacturers have participated in this tender. Utilisation of financial offers based on requirements of the Department in terms of equipment and availability of funds, is being processed.

This Ministry is not aware of the negotiations between the bidders in this tender and their financiers.

Amendment to Indian Telegraph Act

1920. SHRIMATI SARLA MAHE SHWAR!: Will the Minister of COM MUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are planning to amend the Indian Telegraph Act, 1885 to end the current monopoly of Doordarshan and All India Radio ; and

(b) if so, what are the details of the scheme ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) No Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Foreign Companies' Low Offer for Indian Market

1921. SHRl NILOTPAL BASU : Will tiie Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that AT&T accouont for 42% of its domestic market Seimens 83% for the German market and Ericsson 100% Swedish market;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the price of offering lines by AT&T in the home country in 1992 was $110, that of Alcatel $325, Fijitsu $290 and Seimens $450;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the same companies are quoting prices varying between $100 and $140 for the international market;

(d) whether it is also a fact that these companies are prepared to offer still lower prices of $80 for the Indian market;

(e) if so, whether it implies that the international operation and their possible Indian operation, is essentially subsidised by the high degree of profits in their domestic markets to allow them initial to hold for capturing the Indian market; and

(f) whether it is a fact that if their endeavour to firmly entrench themselve* in